

CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE BALCONES CANYONLANDS NWR AREA

More than 260 species of birds have been recorded in or near the BCNWR, a large number for a small area. One reason for this diversity: the Refuge lies in the zone where the East meets the West. Such typically western birds as the Black-throated Sparrow reach the eastern edge of their ranges here, while many eastern birds such as the Red-bellied Woodpecker approach their western limits. For visiting birders, the most interesting species are two endangered songbirds, the Black-capped Vireo and the Golden-cheeked Warbler. With planning and a little luck, it's possible--though by no means guaranteed--to find both of them in a single morning (see Pages 11 and 12).

Area covered: A semicircle 16 miles in diameter centered on Lago Vista (including all of the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge but not the area south of Lake Travis). Included in this area are northwestern Travis County, southwesternmost Williamson county, and a part of southeastern Burnet County.

Seasons: Early Spring: March 9 - April 9
Late Spring: April 10 - May 24
Summer: May 25 - August 7
Early Fall: August 8 - September 30
Late Fall: October 1 - November 30
Winter: December 1 - March 8

Detectability categories: C = Common (you'll always find this species *in appropriate*

habitat, often with minimal searching)
F = Fairly common (should find it most of the time)
U = Uncommon (might find it)
R = Rare (probably won't find it)
I = Irregular (a species present some years, absent others)
X = Accidental (not expected to occur again)
? = Believed to occur at this season, but status uncertain

Note: These detectability categories apply to the *likelihood of finding (by sight or sound)* a given species *in appropriate habitat--not to the species' actual abundance*. For example,

Wild Turkeys are easily detectable in spring when males are gobbling, but they're harder to find the rest of the year (even though turkeys may actually be more numerous at other seasons). Consequently, Wild Turkey rates a "F" in Early and Late Spring but only a "U" at other seasons. Similarly, Bushtits, though more numerous than Red-tailed Hawks, are detected far less often. So Bushtit rates a "U" while Red-tailed Hawk gets an "F" or "C."

Note: If detectability varies significantly during the course of a season, two abundance categories are shown, separated by a hyphen. For example, Cliff Swallows are absent at the start of Early Spring but become common by that season's end. They're shown as "X-C."

Note: It's difficult to assign a single code to certain species. Some birds are detected more often in some years than in others; some species are unevenly distributed in the BCNWR region; some species are easily found at feeders but are less frequently observed elsewhere. In such cases a range is given. Three examples: In some winters Golden-crowned Kinglets are seldom encountered, while in other winters they're seen fairly often. This species' winter code is shown as "R/F." American Crows are scarce in the western part of the region but easily found in the east. They rate a "U/C" throughout the year. And House Finches, common at bird feeders, are at best only fairly common elsewhere. They rate an "F/C" throughout the year. In all such cases, the more typical detectability code is given first.

Species known or believed to breed in or near the BCNWR area are asterisked (*).

Two introduced species--the Emu and the Ring-necked Pheasant--are not firmly established in the BCNWR area. Their names are bracketed to indicate their doubtful status.

The "Myrtle" and "Audubon's" groups of the Yellow-rumped Warbler are listed separately, as are the "Slate-colored" and "Oregon" groups of the Dark-eyed Junco (the "Pink-sided" Junco is included in the latter group). The "Traill's" Flycatcher group probably includes both the Willow and the Alder flycatchers, but so far only the Willow Flycatcher has been positively identified in the BCNWR Vista area.

Always respect private property! Trespassing is taken seriously here.

We welcome comments on this checklist. Please send them to Manager, Balcones Canyonlands

National Wildlife Refuge, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 201, Austin, Texas 78758. E-mail: <fw2_rw_Balcones@fws.gov>. Telephone: (512) 339-9432, extension 26.

Compiled by John Kelly, Roger Frost, Eddie Hertz, Bill Lybarger, Jean Nance, Bill Reiner, and Chuck Sexton. February 20, 2003.

| <u>SPECIES</u> | <u>EARLY SPRING</u> | <u>LATE SPRING</u> | <u>SUMMER</u> | <u>EARLY FALL</u> | <u>LATE FALL</u> | <u>WINTER</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Ratites | | | | | | |
| [Emu*]..... | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| Grebes | | | | | | |
| Pied-billed Grebe* | U | R | R | R | U | U |
| Eared Grebe..... | | | | | | R |
| Pelicans, Cormorants, and Darters | | | | | | |
| American White Pelican..... | U | U | | | U | X |
| Neotropic Cormorant..... | | ? | ? | ? | | |
| Double-crested Cormorant... F | | R | | | F | F |
| Anhinga..... | | X | | | | |
| Hérons, Egrets, and Spoonbills | | | | | | |
| American Bittern..... | X | | | | | |
| Great Blue Heron* | FF | F | F | F | U/F | |
| Great Egret..... | | R | X | R | | |
| Snowy Egret..... | | R | | | | |
| Little Blue Heron..... | | R/U | | | | |
| Cattle Egret..... | | U | R | ? | | |
| Green Heron* | R | U | U | U | R | R |
| Roseate Spoonbill..... | | | | X | | |
| New World Vultures | | | | | | |
| Black Vulture* | C | F | F | F | C | C |
| Turkey Vulture* | C C | C | C | C | C | |

Waterfowl

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----|
| Black-bellied Whistling-Duck | | | | | R | | | X |
| Greater White-fronted Goose | | | | | | | | R/U |
| Snow Goose..... | | | | | | ? | | X |
| Ross's Goose..... | | | | | | X | | |
| Canada Goose..... | | | | | | R | | |
| Wood Duck*..... | R | R | R | | R | R | R | |
| Gadwall..... | R | | | | | U | | U/F |
| American Wigeon..... | ? | | | | | U | | F |
| Mallard..... | ? | | | | | U | | U |
| Blue-winged Teal..... | U | | | | ? | ? | | X |
| Northern Shoveler..... | ? | | | | | ? | | R |
| Northern Pintail..... | ? | | | | | R | | U/R |
| Green-winged Teal..... | U | | | | | U | | R |
| Canvasback..... | ? | | | | | R | | R/U |
| <u>SPECIES</u> | <u>EARLY</u> | <u>LATE</u> | | | <u>EARLY</u> | <u>LATE</u> | | |
| | <u>SPRING</u> | <u>SPRING</u> | <u>SUMMER</u> | | <u>FALL</u> | <u>FALL</u> | <u>WINTER</u> | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|-----|
| Redhead..... | | | | | | R | | R |
| Ring-necked Duck..... | U | | | | | U | | F |
| Lesser Scaup..... | ? | | | | | ? | | U/F |
| White-winged Scoter..... | | | | | | X | | |
| Bufflehead..... | | | | | | R | | R |
| Hooded Merganser..... | | | | | | R | | R |
| Ruddy Duck..... | | | | | | | | R |

Osprey, Kites, Hawks, Eagles, and Falcons

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-------|--|-----|---|
| Osprey | | | U | R | X | R | | R | U |
| Mississippi Kite..... | | | U/F | | U/F | | | | |
| Northern Harrier..... | U | | | | | U | | U/F | |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk..... | U/F | | U/F-R | | | U/C | | U | |
| Cooper's Hawk*..... | R | R | | R | R | R/U | | R/U | |
| Red-shouldered Hawk*..... | R/U | R/U | | R/U | R/U | R/U | | R/U | |
| Broad-winged Hawk..... | U | U | | | U | | | | |
| Swainson's Hawk..... | U/F | U/F | | | U/F | U/C-X | | | |
| Zone-tailed Hawk..... | | | | | X | | | | |
| Red-tailed Hawk*..... | F | F | | F | F | F | | C | |
| Ferruginous Hawk..... | | X | | | | ? | | | |
| Golden Eagle..... | | | | | | X | | | |
| Crested Caracara..... | R | R | | | | X | | | |
| American Kestrel..... | C-U | R | | | R-U | C | | C | |
| Merlin..... | | | | | | R | | R | |
| Peregrine Falcon..... | X | | | X | | | | R | |

Gallinaceous Birds

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|-----|---|---|---|
| [Ring-necked Pheasant]..... | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| Wild Turkey* | F | F | U | U | U | U |
| Northern Bobwhite* | F | C | C-F | U | U | U |

Rails, Gallinules, Coots, and Cranes

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|---|---|---|-----|-----|
| Sora..... | | ? | R | ? | R | |
| Purple Gallinule..... | | X | | | | |
| American Coot..... | R/U | R | ? | ? | R | R/U |
| Sandhill Crane..... | U/F | | | | F/U | I |

Shorebirds

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-----|---|---|---|-----|
| Killdeer* | F | U/F | U | U | F | U/F |
| Greater Yellowlegs..... | R | R | | R | R | R |
| Lesser Yellowlegs..... | R | R/U | | ? | | |
| Solitary Sandpiper..... | R | U | | R | | |

SPECIES

EARLY LATE SUMMER EARLY LATE WINTER
SPRING SPRING SUMMER FALL FALL WINTER

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|
| Spotted Sandpiper..... | R | U | | U | R | R |
| Upland Sandpiper..... | U | U | R | U/F | | |
| Long-billed Curlew..... | | R | | | | |
| Western Sandpiper..... | | R | | ? | | |
| Least Sandpiper..... | | R | | ? | | |
| White-rumped Sandpiper.... | | R | | | | |
| Baird's Sandpiper..... | | R | | ? | | |
| Pectoral Sandpiper..... | | R/U | | ? | | |
| Wilson's Snipe..... | R | ? | | | R | R/U |
| American Woodcock..... | R | X | | | R | R |
| Wilson's Phalarope..... | | R | | | | |

Gulls and Terns

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----|--|---|---|---|
| Franklin's Gull..... | | U/F | | | ? | |
| Ring-billed Gull..... | U | R | | | U | U |
| Herring Gull..... | | | | | | R |
| Forster's Tern..... | ? | ? | | ? | R | R |

Pigeons and Doves

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Rock Dove* | U/F | U/F | U/F | U/F | U/F | U/F |
| Eurasian Collared-Dove..... | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| White-winged Dove* | F | F | F | F | F | F |
| Mourning Dove* | C | C | C | C | C | C |
| Inca Dove* | U/F | U/F | U/F | U/F | U/F | U/F |
| Common Ground-Dove* | U | U | U | U | R | R |

Parrots and Cuckoos

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| Monk Parakeet..... | | | | X | | |
|--------------------|--|--|--|---|--|--|

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|-----|---|---|
| Black-billed Cuckoo..... | | X | | | | |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo* | | C | C | C-R | | |
| Greater Roadrunner* | F | F | F | U | U | U |

Owls

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barn Owl* | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | R |
| Eastern Screech-Owl* | F | F | F | F | F | F |
| Great Horned Owl* | U | U | U | U | U | U |
| Barred Owl* | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| Long-eared Owl..... | | | | | X | |
| Short-eared Owl..... | | | | | | X |

| <u>SPECIES</u> | <u>EARLY SPRING</u> | <u>LATE SPRING</u> | <u>SUMMER</u> | <u>EARLY FALL</u> | <u>LATE FALL</u> | <u>WINTER</u> |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------|
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------|

Goatsuckers

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|-----|---|---|---|
| Common Nighthawk* | | F | U/F | ? | | |
| Common Poorwill* | U | U | U | U | ? | ? |
| Chuck-will's-widow* | | C | C | U | | |
| Whip-poor-will..... | R | R | | | | |

Swifts and Hummingbirds

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Chimney Swift* | U | F | F | F-C | ? | |
| Green Violet-Ear..... | | | X | | | |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird.. | | R | R | R | R | |
| Black-chinned Hummingbird* | | R-F | F/C | F/C | C-R | |
| Rufous Hummingbird..... | R | R | | R | R | R |

Kingfishers and Woodpeckers

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Belted Kingfisher* | F | U | U | U | F | F |
| Green Kingfisher..... | | | | X | X | |
| Red-headed Woodpecker..... | | | X | | | |
| Golden-fronted Woodpecker* | | R | R | R | R | R U |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker* | R | R | R | R | R | U |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker..... | ? | | | | R | U |
| Ladder-backed Woodpecker* | | F | F | F | F | F F |
| Downy Woodpecker* | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | U |
| Northern Flicker..... | U | | | | U | U |

Tyrant Flycatchers

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| Olive-sided Flycatcher..... | | R | | R | | |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee* | | F/U | F/U | U-R | | |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher..... | | R | | ? | | |
| Acadian Flycatcher..... | | R | | | | |
| Willow Flycatcher..... | | R | | ? | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| "Traill's" Flycatcher..... | | R | | ? | | |
| Least Flycatcher..... | | U/F | | U | | |
| <i>Empidonax</i> species..... | | F | R | F | | |
| Black Phoebe..... | | | | | | X |
| Eastern Phoebe*..... | C | F/U | F/U | F/U | C | C |
| Say's Phoebe..... | R | | | X | ? | R |
| Vermilion Flycatcher*..... | U | U | U | U | ? | X |
| Ash-throated Flycatcher*..... | R-F | F | F | R | | X |
| Great Crested Flycatcher*..... | | R-F | F | F | U | |
| Western Kingbird*..... | | U/F | U/F | U | | |
| Eastern Kingbird..... | | U | R | R | | |
| Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*..... | R-F | C | C | C | F-X | |

| <u>SPECIES</u> | | <u>EARLY</u> <u>SPRING</u> | <u>LATE</u> <u>SPRING</u> | <u>SUMMER</u> | <u>EARLY</u> <u>FALL</u> | <u>LATE</u> <u>FALL</u> | <u>WINTER</u> |
|----------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
|----------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|

Shrikes and Vireos

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Loggerhead Shrike*..... | U | R | R | R-U | F/C | F/C |
| White-eyed Vireo*..... | R-C | C | C | C | | |
| Bell's Vireo*..... | X-U | U | U | ? | | |
| Black-capped Vireo*..... | R-F | F/C | F/C | F | | |
| Yellow-throated Vireo*..... | U/F | U/F | U/F | ? | | |
| Blue-headed Vireo..... | ? | R | | R | R/U | R |
| Hutton's Vireo..... | | | | | | X |
| Warbling Vireo..... | | R | | R | X | |
| Philadelphia Vireo..... | | R | | | | |
| Red-eyed Vireo*..... | | F | F | U-R | | |

Jays and Crows

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Blue Jay*..... | C-F | F/R | F/R | F/R | F/C | C |
| Western Scrub-Jay*..... | C | C | C | C | C | C |
| American Crow*..... | C/U | C/U | C/U | C/U | C/U | C/U |
| Common Raven*..... | U | R | R | R | U | U/F |

Swallows

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Purple Martin*..... | F | F | F | U-R | | ? |
| N. Rough-winged Swallow*.. | | U | U/F | U/F | ? | X |
| Bank Swallow..... | X-R | R | | R | | |
| Cliff Swallow*..... | X-C | C | C | C-U | | |
| Cave Swallow*..... | X-U | U | U | U-R | | |
| Barn Swallow*..... | X-C | C | C | C-F | U-X | |

Chickadees and Titmice

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Carolina Chickadee*..... | F | F | F | F | F | F |
| Black-crested Titmouse*..... | C | C | C | C | C | C |

Verdin, Bushtit, Nuthatches, and Creepers

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Verdin* | ? | ? | ? | ? | R | R |
| Bushtit* | U | U | U | U | U | U |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch..... | I | | | | ? | I |
| Brown Creeper..... | | | | | R | R |

Wrens

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cactus Wren* | R | R | R | R | R | R |
| Rock Wren* | R | R | R | R | R | R |
| Canyon Wren* | F | F | F | F | U | U |
| Carolina Wren* | C | C | C | C | C | C |
| Bewick's Wren* | C | C | C | C | C | C |

| <u>SPECIES</u> | <u>EARLY</u> | <u>LATE</u> | | <u>EARLY</u> | <u>LATE</u> | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | <u>SPRING</u> | <u>SPRING</u> | <u>SUMMER</u> | <u>FALL</u> | <u>FALL</u> | <u>WINTER</u> |

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|---|--|--|-----|-----|
| House Wren..... | ? | ? | | | F/U | U/F |
| Winter Wren..... | R | | | | R | R |
| Sedge Wren..... | R/U | R | | | ? | R/U |
| Marsh Wren..... | | | | | | R |

Kinglets and Gnatcatchers

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Golden-crowned Kinglet..... | R/U | | | | R/F | R/F |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet..... | C-U | R | | | F-C | C |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*..... | R-F | F | F | F/U | U-R | R |

Thrushes

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Eastern Bluebird* | F | F/U | F/U | F/U | F/C | F/C |
| Western Bluebird..... | | | | | | X |
| Townsend's Solitaire..... | I | | | | | ? |
| Swainson's Thrush..... | | R | | ? | | |
| Hermit Thrush..... | R/U | | | | R-U | U/F |
| American Robin* | C-R | R | R | R | R-C | C |

Mimic Thrushes

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gray Catbird..... | R | R | | | R | R |
| Northern Mockingbird*..... | C | C | C | C | C | C |
| Sage Thrasher..... | R | | | | | R |
| Brown Thrasher..... | R | | | | R | R |
| Long-billed Thrasher..... | R | X | | | | ? |
| Curve-billed Thrasher..... | R | | | | | R |

Starlings, Pipits, and Waxwings

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----|---|---|-----|-----|
| European Starling* | C | C | C | C | C | C |
| American Pipit..... | R | | | | R | R/U |
| Sprague's Pipit..... | | | | | R | |
| Cedar Waxwing..... | C | C-R | | | R-C | C |

Wood Warblers

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Blue-winged Warbler..... | | X | | | | |
| Golden-winged Warbler..... | | X | | | | |
| Tennessee Warbler..... | | R | | | | |
| Orange-crowned Warbler..... | F | U/F | | | F | F/U |
| Nashville Warbler..... | R-C | C-R | | F/U | U-R | |
| Northern Parula..... | R | R | | | | |
| Yellow Warbler..... | | F | | F/C | | |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler..... | | R | | ? | | |
| Magnolia Warbler..... | | U | | ? | | |

SPECIES

EARLY LATE
SPRING SPRING SUMMER EARLY LATE
FALL FALL WINTER

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|
| "Myrtle" Warbler..... | F/U | R | | | | F/U | F |
| "Audubon's" Warbler..... | R | | | | | ? | R |
| Golden-cheeked Warbler*.... | | C/F | C/F | | F-R | | |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | | R | U | | | R/U | U-R |
| Blackburnian Warbler..... | | R | | | | X | |
| Prairie Warbler..... | | X | | | | | |
| Palm Warbler..... | | X | | | | | |
| Black-and-white Warbler* | F | F | F-U | | ? | | |
| American Redstart..... | | U | R | | U | | |
| Ovenbird..... | R | R | | | ? | | |
| Northern Waterthrush..... | R | R | | | ? | | |
| Louisiana Waterthrush* | R | R | R | | R | | |
| Mourning Warbler..... | | R | | | U | | |
| MacGillivray's Warbler..... | | R | | | | | |
| Common Yellowthroat..... | | U | | | ? | U/F | |
| Hooded Warbler..... | | R | | | | | |
| Wilson's Warbler..... | | U | | | U | | |
| Canada Warbler..... | | R | | | ? | | |
| Yellow-breasted Chat* | | C | C | | F-R | | |

Tanagers

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| Summer Tanager* | | F | F | F | | |
| Western Tanager..... | | X | | | | |

American Sparrows

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|---|--|---|-----|---|
| Spotted Towhee..... | C-F | U | | | | F-C | C |
| Eastern Towhee..... | R | | | | | | R |
| Canyon Towhee* | F | U/F | U | | U | U | F |
| Cassin's Sparrow* | | I | I | | ? | | X |
| Rufous-crowned Sparrow* ... | C | C | C | | F | F | F |
| Chipping Sparrow* | C-F | F | U | | U | C | C |
| Clay-colored Sparrow..... | | U/C | | | ? | U/F | |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Field Sparrow* | C | C | C | F | C | C |
| Vesper Sparrow..... | C | F-R | | R | C | C |
| Lark Sparrow* | F | C | C | C/F | F/U | U/F |
| Black-throated Sparrow* | U | U | U | R | R | R |
| Lark Bunting..... | I | | | | | I |
| Savannah Sparrow..... | C | F-R | X | | C | C |
| Grasshopper Sparrow* | U/F | U/F | U/F | U | U | U |
| Le Conte's Sparrow..... | F | R | | | R-F | F |
| Fox Sparrow..... | ? | | | | R-U | F |
| Song Sparrow..... | F-R | | | | F | F/C |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| <u>SPECIES</u> | <u>EARLY</u> | <u>LATE</u> | | <u>EARLY</u> | <u>LATE</u> | |
| | <u>SPRING</u> | <u>SPRING</u> | <u>SUMMER</u> | <u>FALL</u> | <u>FALL</u> | <u>WINTER</u> |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|--|--|-----|--------|
| Lincoln's Sparrow..... | F | R | | | F | F |
| Swamp Sparrow..... | R | | | | R | R |
| White-throated Sparrow..... | U/F | | | | U/F | U/F |
| Harris's Sparrow..... | | | | | R-U | F/C |
| White-crowned Sparrow..... | C-F | U-R | | | R-C | C |
| "Slate-colored" Junco..... | | | | | R-U | F |
| "Oregon"/"Pink-sided" Junco. | | | | | | R-UU/F |
| Chestnut-collared Longspur... | | I | | | | I |

Grosbeaks and Buntings

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Northern Cardinal* | C | C | C | C | C | C |
| Pyrrhuloxia..... | I | I | | | I | I |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak..... | | | R | | | |
| Black-headed Grosbeak..... | | | X | | | |
| Blue Grosbeak* | | F/U | F/U | U/F | R | |
| Lazuli Bunting..... | | R | | | | |
| Indigo Bunting* | | R/U | R | U | U/F | |
| Painted Bunting* | | R-C | C | F-R | | |
| Dickcissel* | | F/C | I | F | | |

Blackbirds and Orioles

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Red-winged Blackbird* | F/C | F/U | F/U | F/U | F | F/C |
| Eastern Meadowlark* | C-F | U | U | U | F-C | C |
| Western Meadowlark..... | F-R | | | | F-C | C |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird..... | | R | | ? | | |
| Brewer's Blackbird..... | ? | | | | I | I |
| Common Grackle* | F | F | F | ? | ? | U |
| Great-tailed Grackle* | F/R | C/R | C/R | C/R | C/R-U | U |
| Bronzed Cowbird..... | ? | R | ? | | | |
| Brown-headed Cowbird* | C | C | C | F/C | F/C | F/C |
| Orchard Oriole* | | U | U | U/F | | |
| Baltimore Oriole..... | | R | | R/C | | |
| Bullock's Oriole..... | | R | | R/U | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| Scott's Oriole..... | R | R | | ? | | |
|---------------------|---|---|--|---|--|--|

Finches

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Purple Finch..... | | | | | | R |
| House Finch*..... | F/C | F/C | F/C | F/C | F/C | F/C |
| Pine Siskin..... | I | I | | | I | I |
| Lesser Goldfinch*..... | F | F | F | F | R | R |
| American Goldfinch..... | C-F | U | | | R-F | C |

SPECIES

| | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| <u>EARLY</u> | <u>LATE</u> | | <u>EARLY</u> | <u>LATE</u> | |
| <u>SPRING</u> | <u>SPRING</u> | <u>SUMMER</u> | <u>FALL</u> | <u>FALL</u> | <u>WINTER</u> |

Old World Sparrows

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| House Sparrow*..... | F/C | F/C | F/C | F/C | F/C | F/C |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

Finding the Black-capped Vireo: Best bet is the ***Shin Oak Observation Deck*** in the Balcones

Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge. From the intersection of Lohman's Ford Road and

Ranch-to-Market Road (RM) 1431 in Lago Vista: go west on RM 1431 for 6.5 miles to Cow

Creek Road. Turn right onto the narrow, winding, mostly unpaved (but scenic) Cow Creek

Road and follow it for 8.7 miles to RM 1174. Turn right onto RM 1174 and follow it for 3.8

miles to RM 1869. Turn right onto RM 1869 and follow it for 1.5 miles to the Observation Deck, which will be on the right (the entrance to the Observation Deck area is marked with signs).

An alternative route follows paved roads all the way. The total driving time is about the same as that for the Cow Creek route. From the intersection of Lohman's Ford Road and RM 1431 in Lago Vista: go west on RM 1431 for 14.7 miles to the intersection with RM 1174. Turn right and follow RM 1174 for 7.2 miles to RM 1869. Turn right and follow RM 1869 for 1.5 miles to the Observation Deck, on the right.

During the nesting season, four or five vireo territories surround the Observation Deck.

Note that the Shin Oak Observation Deck is closed for approximately the first 20 days of

April to allow these endangered vireos time to establish their territories without being disturbed.

It's also closed during the hunting season in late November and early December, as well as from sunset to sunrise year-round. For more information on closures, contact the Balcones Canyonlands NWR office at (512) 339-9432, extension 42 or 26.

Black-capped Vireos are most readily detected by the males' songs. Males begin returning during the last week of March. They sing more-or-less consistently from then through July; some singing continues into early or mid-August. Time of day makes relatively little difference in song output, though the birds are often rather quiet in early morning. Singing is depressed on windy days. Beware confusing the Black-capped Vireo's song with that of the White-eyed Vireo, which is abundant in this shinnery.

Study recordings of the Black-capped Vireo's song beforehand, or listen to the sound post located near the observation deck (if it's working--unfortunately, the post was vandalized at the time of this writing). Using recordings to attract Black-capped Vireos is illegal under the Endangered Species Act. During the singing season, *hearing* a Black-capped Vireo is almost guaranteed but actually *seeing* a bird can be difficult. Glimpses usually last no more than a few seconds. Almost all Black-capped Vireos depart for their wintering grounds before late September.

Finding the Golden-cheeked Warbler: Several possibilities exist, one of the best being

Travis Audubon Society's Wildlife Sanctuary, east of Lago Vista. Call beforehand to secure permission to enter the Sanctuary and to obtain directions (512-219-8425; or 512-926-8751, extension 2). Another possibility is the ***Warbler Vista*** trail system in the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge. Warbler Vista is located west of Lago Vista on the north side of RM 1431. To get there from Lago Vista: starting from the intersection of RM 1431 and Lohman's Ford Road, drive west on RM 1431 for 1¾ miles and look for the signs, on the right.

A third possibility is the Refuge's ***Doeskin Ranch***, where a few warblers nest atop Post Oak Ridge. To get to Doeskin Ranch, first drive to RM 1174 via Cow Creek Road (follow the directions given in the Black-capped Vireo account). At the intersection of Cow Creek Road and RM 1174, turn right (north) onto RM 1174 and follow it for 1.3 miles to Doeskin Ranch. *An alternative route to Doeskin Ranch follows paved roads:* from Lago Vista, drive west on RM 1431 for 14.7 miles to the intersection with RM 1174.

Turn right (north) onto RM 1174 and follow it for 4.7 miles to Doeskin Ranch. The entrance to Doeskin Ranch is on the right side of RM 1174; it's marked with signs.

Note that some or all of the areas mentioned above may be closed during hunting season in November and December (times of year, of course, when the warbler is on its wintering grounds).

For information on closures, contact the Balcones Canyonlands NWR office at (512) 339-9432, extension 42 or 26.

The Golden-cheeked Warbler is most easily detected by its buzzy songs (but beware confusing

the warbler's songs with the sometimes similar songs of the Bewick's Wren). Male warblers begin returning to the Lago Vista area around March 9. Females follow about a week later. Until middle or late April, males sing throughout the day. From late April until late May, they sing mostly before sunrise and again between about 8:30 and 11 a.m. Singing ends by early to mid-June. Almost all Golden-cheeked Warblers depart for the tropics before the end of July, though a few stragglers may remain until the first week of August. **Using recordings to attract Golden-cheeked Warblers is illegal under the Endangered Species Act.**

